

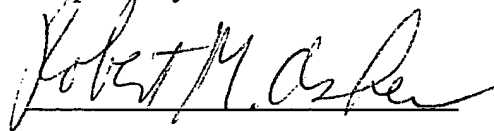
REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 3, 6, 12, and 15. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 22-26, however stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saulpaugh in view of Russell. Applicants traverse the rejection.

In accordance with applicants' claimed invention, there is a conduit or communication link with a plurality of target applications having an open message passing session on the conduit or link. The Examiner concedes that Saulpaugh does not specifically teach opening a session over an existing communication link between the client application and any of a plurality of target applications that have an open message passing session on the communication link. Russell also fails to disclose this aspect of Applicants' invention. In accordance with the connection based system of Russell, a connection or a pool of connections is associated with a given server. (Column 9, lines 20-25). Thus, a connection in accordance with Russell allows communication with only a single target or server application. While a client in the Russell system may connect with any of a plurality of servers, it can only do so by opening a session on the connection with the desired server. Russell fails to disclose the mechanism of Applicants' invention in which there is a conduit allowing communications with any of a plurality of target applications that have an open message passing session on the conduit. Whereas the Examiner has identified the existing communication link as connection 20 in Russell, Russell is fully distinguished from Applicants' invention. The connections 20 of Russell are associated with only a single server whereas the conduit or the communication link of Applicants' invention allows communication with any of a plurality of target applications.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all claims as in the application are allowable over the art of record and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Asher", written over a horizontal line.

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